

A6 driving license, an insurance card, etc. as well as in a smart card (IC card) and a wristwatch as described earlier.

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### REMARKS

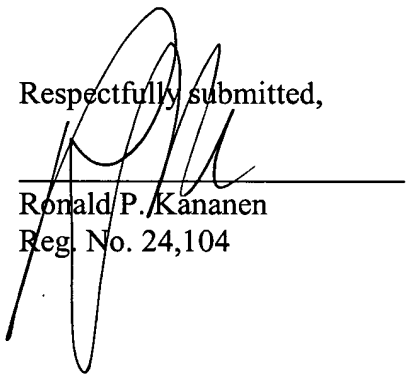
This Preliminary Amendment is requested prior to the initial examination of the above-identified patent application. No new matter has been added. In particular, the features amended to the specification by the foregoing Preliminary Amendment have been described in the specification of this application as filed, and the changes are made in order to improve the idiomatic English and the overall readability of the specification. If the Examiner has any suggestions for placing this application in even better form, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned and the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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**Appendix I**

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(b)(1)(iii), the amended paragraphs are set forth in a marked-up version below:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Beginning at page 1, line 7:

The present invention relates to a fingerprint identification system, apparatus, and method for reading a fingerprint from a human finger and comparing the fingerprint against a fingerprint which has been registered in advance, for example, for the purpose of authentication. The present invention also relates to a biometric identification apparatus for reading biometric information relating to a feature of a human body and comparing the biometric information against biometric information which has been registered in advance, for example, for the purpose of authentication.

Beginning at page 18, line 18:

Fig[s]. 11A is an external view of the identification apparatus according to the third embodiment, and Fig. 11B is an external view thereof with a fingerprint sensor exposed;

Beginning at page 24, line 8:

Thus, the fingerprint sensor 104 reads the fingerprint of substantially the entire finger placed on the reading unit 108, and outputs an image signal of the fingerprint (step S16). The A/D converter 12 (shown in Fig. 1A) digitizes the image signal to output a grayscale image data (step S18).

Beginning at page 33, line 19:

If step S142 evaluates to "N", the CPU 18 transmits to the computer 24 information for prompting the user to place his/her finger again on the fingerprint sensor 30, whereby the

computer 24 prompts the user to place his/her finger again, for example, by displaying a message (step S144). Then, the process returns to step S132, and the same steps are repeated.

Beginning at page 42, line 10:

1) In a locking system for locking a door to a home, the door is unlocked based on the result of fingerprint identification by the identification apparatus 50.

Beginning at page 43, line 18:

Furthermore, an identification apparatus according to the present invention may be incorporated in a telephone card, a credit card, a cash card, a card to be used in an ATM of a bank, a ticket or commutation ticket for various public transportation services, a passport, a driving license, an insurance card, etc. as well as in a smart card (IC card) and a wristwatch as described earlier.